

**City of Milpitas  
Senior Center Facilities Subcommittee  
City Hall Committee Conference Room**

**Meeting Notes  
Monday, October 2, 2006**

**UNAPPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

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- 1. Flag Salute** Mayor Esteves led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 2. Call to Order** Mayor Esteves called the meeting to order at 5:57 p.m.

**Attendance:**

<i>City Council:</i>	Mayor Jose Esteves; Councilmember Debbie Giordano (6:01 p.m.)
<i>Staff:</i>	Greg Armendariz; Bonnie Greiner; Jennifer Tagalog
<i>Consultant:</i>	Gail Seeds, GSS Consulting Janet Tam & Jeff Day, Noll & Tam Architects Lauren Livingston, TSMG

**1. Citizens Forum (remarks limit to 3 minutes):**

- None

**4. Announcements:**

- None

**5. Approval of Agenda:**

- The Subcommittee approved the agenda.

**6. Civic Senior Center, Project 8176**

Bonnie Greiner, Recreation Services Manager, explained that the New Senior Center project team met with four focus groups on Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, which included Water Exercise participants, Fit Over 50 participants, Senior Center participants, and Terrace Gardens residents. The community outreach involved approximately 50 individuals. She indicated that a sampling of the ideas and input from the community were listed on the walls. She reported that there would be a community input meeting on Tuesday, October 24, 2006, to receive additional input from the public as well. She then introduced Janet Tam of Noll & Tam Architects to the Subcommittee.

Mayor Jose Esteves asked if the team had reviewed the Senior Advisory Commission's sub-committee study which indicated some of the needs for seniors. Bonnie Greiner indicated that the entire project team had received a copy of the document and it would be taken under advisement. She indicated that staff would also meet periodically with the Senior Advisory

Commission to receive input from them as well.

Janet Tam, Noll & Tam Architects, introduced Lauren Livingston, TSMG, and Jeff Day, Noll & Tam Architects. She explained they have been launching the pre-design phase by meeting with focus groups, Recreation staff and Senior Center staff, and gathering information for the needs assessment. Janet explained that Lauren Livingston is a specialist in programming these types of facilities. She stated that Lauren is leading the programming process while Noll & Tam is working on the building evaluation.

The project team presented a power point presentation to the Subcommittee, which was shown to focus groups earlier in the day. The project schedule was reviewed, indicating that the construction is scheduled to begin once the library has moved into its new location. The pre-design tasks are expected to extend through spring 2007 and include the building evaluation process, data collection and analysis, community input, program development, and finalization of a program and cost plan.

Data have been collected from a variety of sources and analyzed. The latest demographics show a significant increase in population for adults 55+ over the next 10-20 years, which will impact the number and types of programs and services to be offered. The 2002 Senior Needs Assessment study emphasized finding ways to celebrate the city's ethnic diversity and enhance cultural and generational unity. Lauren noted that the demographics confirm a rich cultural diversity in Milpitas. Lauren indicated that one of the things noted during focus group discussions was that some individuals didn't feel the current facility is inclusive enough of all groups. She indicated that it would be important when programming the new facility to make it feel inviting to others.

Lauren observed that the focus groups were a good cross section of active adults, current Senior Center users, Terrace Gardens residents and future users. She indicated that the new facility would serve participants ages 50-100, and that the focus groups were asked to think about what they would need now as well as how the facility could serve them in later years.

Lauren discussed the "new" older adult trends. They will often continue to work part-time or look for meaningful volunteer opportunities. They also have time for exercise and recreation. They may pursue special interests or hobbies, and enjoy better health than previous generations. She reported that future seniors will value social connections, activities that share common interests, and opportunities to find a companion. She reported on fitness and wellness trends for older adults, noting that over half of Boomers expect to exercise regularly in retirement.

Lauren noted the importance of serving the needs by offering spaces and activities that promote socializing, activities designed to meet new people, activities and support for working older adults, volunteer opportunities and classes to support a wide range of interests. She indicated that the focus groups expressed an interest in expanding the Senior Center's hours of operation.

She provided the Subcommittee with an overview of photos from other facilities, which provided examples of spaces to consider. The focus groups commented on the importance of offering spaces that allow for socialization where someone could come and get a cup of coffee and meet with a friend. People liked the idea of indoor/outdoor seating. Lauren indicated that the focus group participants were in favor of a café-style setting, ranging from a simple coffee/juice bar area, to a place to purchase food as well. They also were interested in offering

quality food.

Lauren indicated the community room could allow for a large gathering divisible space with adjacent kitchen. This space could serve the daily lunch program and generate revenue on the weekends and evenings, and could accommodate many types of uses. The focus groups were in favor of having an area appropriate to offer movies, shows, skits, dancing or karaoke. They also were in favor of offering a variety of dance programs and making the spaces flexible. Lauren stated that the focus groups expressed the importance of a game room area to allow for ping-pong, Mah Jongg, pool table, cards, games, etc., and liked the possibility of moving some activities outside on a nice day.

She indicated that the focus groups didn't mention much about resource center space. However, Bonnie Greiner indicated that due to the high percentage of those currently using Case Manager services, this would be part of the recommended program, which would allow support for health and wellness, visiting services, social work and case management.

Lauren indicated that the focus groups were interested in a resource area for trips and travel. They also expressed interest in a variety of one-day and overnight trips and a more comfortable van. She reported that the focus groups expressed interest in offering the following programs at the new facility: various types of dance classes, English as a second language, life enrichment classes, stress management, instruction in pool/billiards, cooking classes, travel/language classes, money matters workshops, health/nutrition classes, arts and crafts studio, computer room (basics to advanced), wood floor studio, fitness room, exercise classes, and cardio/weights facilities. The focus group participants recommended ongoing senior-oriented fitness activities to attract those older adults who might not go to the Sports Center, but that there was not a need to duplicate the existing Sports Center programming.

Council member Giordano commented that when she went to visit other Senior Center facilities, they had an area designated for fitness equipment. She indicated that this may be a "wish-list" item, depending on the results of the needs evaluation, and to consider whether there will be enough space available.

Lauren indicated the focus groups were comfortable with making use of the adjacent Community Center and sharing spaces. Bonnie Greiner indicated that the groups recognized the new senior center would need to be multi-functional and might not be used exclusively senior center purposes (i.e. okay to offer non-senior classes, private rentals after hours, etc.).

Mayor Esteves questioned the capacity of the community room and square footage of existing library, as he recalled the facility was initially going to expand to 24-25,000 sf which would allow for a larger community room. Staff indicated the existing footprint is about 18,500 square feet and could probably accommodate about 150-200 people. The Mayor indicated that he would like the main gathering space to accommodate a larger group, 350 people or more.

Janet Tam, Noll & Tam Architects, indicated that although the 18,500 square foot is bigger than the current facility, it will be important to balance the necessary spaces determined from the needs assessment. She stated that if the existing footprint were used to accommodate a group of 300+ people, the majority of the available square footage would have to be designated for that space.

Bonnie Greiner responded to the Mayor that the previous needs assessment indicated the

opportunity for a larger facility, however, that was prior to the City Council's determination to use the existing library and its current footprint of 18,500, which staff has been working with.

Greg Armendariz, Public Works Director, indicated the project team should go through the programming process to determine what sizes are needed for this type of facility vs. recommending the need to expand at this time.

Councilmember Giordano indicated she agreed with the Mayor that the facility should be larger to accommodate a large community room and maximize space if there is a need.

Bonnie Greiner explained that the needs will be prioritized and a larger community room would be taken into consideration. The project team will come back to the Subcommittee with different options to consider based on the priorities of the community.

Janet Tam noted that when meeting with the focus groups the following were some common themes:

- 1) Whether or not to call the facility a "Senior Center";
- 2) Importance of access to the new facility (example: whether there be a shuttle to the Sports Center and/or improved pedestrian walkway connections);
- 3) Challenges with the facility being a multi-cultural center and how to address these concerns.

#### **7. Approval of Minutes:**

- Council member Giordano moved approval of the minutes and the minutes were approved unanimously.

#### **8. Set Next Meeting Date: TBD**

The next Senior Center Facilities Subcommittee meeting will be scheduled on Monday, December 4, 2006.

#### **9. Adjournment**

- Adjournment: 6:30 p.m.